From: Simmons, Denise
To: Patrick Queenan
Bcc: dsimmons@cabridgema.gov
Subject: RE: MAHP Hearing
Date: Friday, April 20, 2018 8:13:57 AM

Dear Mr. Queenan,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns. I appreciate the great passion that you have for this issue, but I do feel it necessary to correct you on a couple of points. You have suggested that the City Council has caved in to some external pressure and postponed a hearing on the HP issue, and moreover, you have sugggested that the City Councilors have abandoned our morals in so doing. Neither of these suggestions is accurate. In Cambridge, a matter like this can only come to the floor for discussion and debate if one or more City Councilors sponsor it (as a resolution or as a policy order). If no Councilors sponsor such a resolution, then it does not appear on our agenda. In this case, an external group of residents publicized on social media that this would be on the agenda for our regular April 23 business meeting; I do not know if they were privately told by one or more of my colleagues that this order would be introduced and then something changed, or if there were some misunderstandings that took place, but I have never seen the resolution in question, and none of my colleagues ended up submitting this to the Clerk's Office for inclusion in this coming Monday's agenda. This is how our process works for any piece of business before the Council, and to suggest that this body caved in to pressure or abandoned our morals is incorrect.

I have not seen a draft of this resolution and therefore I have not been able to fully review it. I have certainly heard from passionate people who have urged the City Council to pass such a resolution, and I have heard from an equal number of equally passionate people urging the City Council to reject such a resolution. I believe the majority of the people I've heard from are speaking in good faith, and I am doing my part to review all the emails, do some independent research, reach out to my representatives in Congress to review this with them, and take due care in learning more about this issue. If this does ultimately come before the City Council, I will do whatever I can to ensure that we have a full, fair, and honest airing of the issue in such a way that all parties feel they have been respectfully heard, and then I will cast a vote on the matter. This is as it should be. I appreciate your adding your voice to the mix.

E. Denise Simmons

Sent from my iPhone

From: Patrick Queenan
Sent: 4/19/18, 8:49 PM
To: City Council
Subject: MAHP Hearing

Hi all,

Very concerned about the response and ultimate postponement of the MAHP hearing. As a Somerville resident and someone active in the community, it bothers me personally that you've allowed CUJI and APT to delay this hearing.

Please recognize that the people here care about this, and deserve better. On a personal level, I understand that the right wing push back is immense and creates conflicts for you all. What I don't understand nor respect is the willingness to give in to these sentiments, and to abandon your own morals for said sentiments.

Please reconsider your stances collectively. Some good progress has been made and I see no reason to halt that now.

Thank you,
Patrick Queenan
Somerville MA Resident